

Angora Trip To Big Tree
March 10, 1952

The weather was lousy, a few Angoras and two guests assembled at Hildebrand's store, the usual trip starting point, at 8:30 A.M. Sunday morning. Transportation for the trip consisted of three cars belonging to Axel Ramvick, Chas. Erickson and Mr. Brooks; an excess of transportation on account of varying ideas regarding the return trip. On the way south Axel stopped at the Horton residence to pick up the trip historian, a very essential part of the expedition.

All three cars stopped at the Chas. Johnson headquarters where the trunk of the Erickson car was loaded with shakes to be delivered to the cabin on Tillamook Head later in the day. Hector Wilson was also a passenger in the Erickson car. To show them the way Ami Johnson loaded into the Brooks car and Charlie Johnson loaded in with Axel and I.

All went well on the way to Seaside, tho the fog in the air began to concentrate into drops of water which gradually became larger and more plentiful till it could be called a heavy drizzle when we reached the logging road a mile or so beyond Cannon Beach junction, the point where we were to leave the hiway and start hiking. Here we waited a short time and the Brooks car arrived with Ami reporting that Charlie Erickson and Hector, instead of turning left at Cannon Beach junction had turned right and were heading for Cannon Beach.

Sometime later while we were trying to decide whether Charlie had overlooked his alarm clock and had dozed a little at the wrong time, or whether he was a little confused by Hector's insatiable thirst for knowledge regarding the early life of the Big Tree, or whether we should pursue him and bring him back to the right track; he came driving up.

After a short conference it was decided, on account of the unfavorable weather conditions, to drive as far as practical so we proceeded up the logging road about two and a half miles where there was a good parking spot. This left only a half mile

or less to hike to the famous tree. The tree appeared to have made little change since our last visit several years ago, but the litter of lunch papers and other signs of civilization indicate that it is visited by more people since the road has been improved. After looking it over from all sides and from bottom to top, it was decided that the top of the tree was broken out and that it was ripe for logging. If not logged it will some day fall down and consideration should be given to training its successor. Hector is still not reconciled to the fact that it is the biggest douglas fir in the whole world. Measurement of the circumference as high as the tape could be placed by hand was 42 feet, 5 5/8 inches.

By this time the drizzle had developed into real rain and each of us was getting wetter every minute so we hurried back to the cars and returned to the hiway, where the Brooks' deserted us. The other two cars proceeded to the end of the road near the Angora Ranch where the five Angora men packed the carload of shakes to the cabin. The pack trip was made as quickly as possible on account of the wet weather, after which Chas. Erickson and Hector returned to Astoria. Axel and I stopped off at the Johnsons' to eat our lunches augmented by a bowl of Ami's delicious pea soup, after which we returned home about 2 P.M.

The entire party consisted of Mr. & Mrs. Brooks, Ami Johnson, Chas. Johnson, Axel Ramwick, Chas. Erickson, Hector Wilson and the trip historian Ralph Horton.